Boards, Commissions, and Committees

Test Schedule and Review Committee

Headquarters
Department of the Army
Washington, DC
30 October 1985

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SUMMARY of CHANGE

AR 15–38
Test Schedule and Review Committee

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History. This UPDATE printing publishes a revision, which is effective 30 October 1985. Because the structure of the entire revised text has been reorganized, no attempt has been made to highlight changes from the earlier regulation dated 8 March 1977.

Summary. This regulation places the Test Schedule and Review Committee (TSARC) under the 15-series directive, revises the TSARC membership, and establishes an instrumentation subcommittee to advise the TSARC. The TSARC was previously authorized under AR 71–3, User Testing.

Applicability. This regulation applies to the Active Army only. It does not apply to the Army National Guard or the U.S. Army Reserve.

Army management control process. This regulation is not subject to the requirements of AR 11–2. It does not contain internal control provisions.

Committee continuance approval. The DA Committee Management Officer concurs in the continuance of the Test Schedule and Review Committee, which was established by Chief of Staff Memorandum 72–15–221 on 16 October 1972 and incorporated into AR 71–3, 17 March 1975.

Supplementation. Supplementation of this regulation and establishment of forms other than DA Forms are prohibited without prior approval of the Office of the Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, U.S. Army Operational Test and Evaluation Agency, ATTN: CSTE–SP, 5600 Columbia Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041–5115.

Interim changes. Interim changes to this regulation are not official unless they are authenticated by The Adjutant General. Users will destroy interim changes on their expiration dates unless sooner superseded or rescinded.

Suggested Improvements. The proponent agency of this regulation is the Office of the Chief of Staff, U.S. Army. Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements on DA From 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) directly to the Cdr, OTEA, ATTN: CSTE–SP, 5600 Columbia Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041–5115.

Distribution. Active Army: D; ARNG and USAR: None.

Contents (Listed by paragraph and page number)

*This regulation supersedes AR 71–3, Chapter 2, 8 March 1977.

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1. Purpose

This regulation—

a. Provides guidance and establishes procedures governing the Test Schedule and Review Committee (TSARC), a continuing Intradepartmental Army Committee.

b. Sets forth the mission, functions, composition, responsibilities, and concept of operation of the TSARC.

2. References

a. Required publications.

(1) AR 70–10, Test and Evaluation During Development and Acquisition of Materiel. (Cited in para 10.)

(2) AR 71–3, User Testing. (Cited in para 3.)

b. Related publications.

(1) AR 10–4, U.S. Army Operational Test and Evaluation Agency.

(2) DA Pam 71–3, Operational Test and Evaluation Methodology and Procedures Guide.

3. Explanation of abbreviations and terms

a. Abbreviations.

(1) C2E—Continuous Comprehensive Evaluation

(2) DCSOPS—Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans

(3) FDTE—force development test and experimentation

(4) FYTP—Five Year Test Program

(5) OTEA—U.S. Army Operational Test and Evaluation Agency

(6) OTP—Outline Test Plan

(7) TCE—test cost estimate

(8) T & E—test and evaluation

(9) TSARC—Test Schedule and Review Committee

(10) UTI—user test instrumentation

(11) WG—working group

b. Terms.

(1) Continuous Comprehensive Evaluation (C2E). A continuous process extending from concept definition through deployment which evaluates the operational effectiveness and suitability of a system by analysis of all available data.

(2) Outline Test Plan (OTP). A formal resource document, which is prepared for the TSARC review. It contains a listing of resources required and administrative information necessary to support a user test and evaluation (T & E), to include C2E. OTPs are also prepared for development test (DT) when nonorganic troops are required by the materiel developer to support DT. The OTP contains the critical test issues, test conditions, scope, tactical context (for user T & E only), resource requirement suspense dates, test milestone dates, and cost estimates (for user T & E only). OTP preparation guidance is issued by the U.S. Army Operational Test and Evaluation Agency (OTEA).

(3) User Test. A generic term which includes operational testing (OT), force development test and experimentation (FDTE), and joint testing (JT). (See AR 71–3.)

(4) Five Year Test Program (FYTP). A compendium of TSARC reviewed and HQDA approved OTPs. The FYTP identifies validated requirements to support the Army's user test and C2E programs. It is developed within existing budget and program constraints in accordance with Army priorities. It is a tasking document for the current and budget years and provides test planning guidelines for the out years (years subsequent to the current and budget years). OTP contained in the FYTP out years may be abbreviated, but must contain the essential information consistent with the data available.

(5) User test instrumentation (UTI). Instrumentation used by user testers. UTI includes—

(a) Scientific or technical equipment used to measure, sense, record, transmit, process, or display data during test or examination of materiel.

(b) Simulators or system stimulators used to measure or depict threat, or for training, teaching, and proficiency during user test.

(c) Targets used to simulate a battlefield object when destruction of the real object is not practical or the actual object is not available.

(d) Threat instrumentation managed under the Army Development and Acquisition of Threat Simulators (ADATS) Program.

(e) Audiovisual (AR 108–2) when it supports user testing.

4. Mission

The mission of the TSARC is to provide high-level centralized management of resources (including flying hours and ammunition) for user T & E to maximize the use of limited resources and to minimize the impact on unit operational readiness. The TSARC will—

a. Review and recommend coordinated OTP for inclusion in the FYTP. Ensure satisfaction of a 1-year notification requirement for resource commitments (personnel and equipment) or compliance with the exception to policy procedures (para 8*e*).

b. Review and recommend user T & E priorities.

c. Review and coordinate resources for support of user T & E, and for troop support of DT (AR 70–10) beyond the materiel developer's resources.

d. Resolve conflicts between user test requirements and other missions.

e. Review testing schedules to minimize the test support impact on units providing Reserve Component/National Guard training support.

f. Review funding for user T & E.

g. Review and recommend approval of the FYTP and the UTI priorities.

5. Test Schedule and Review Committee (TSARC) composition

a. The CG, OTEA chairs the TSARC and provides an executive secretary.

b. The TSARC will consist of general officer or equivalent representatives of the following:

(1) Deputy Chief of Staff for Research, Development and Acquisition (DCSRDA).

(2) Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans (DCSOPS).

(3) Assistant Chief of Staff for Information Management (ACSIM).

(4) Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics (DCSLOG).

(5) Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel (DCSPER).

(6) Comptroller of the Army (COA).

(7) The Surgeon General (TSG).

(8) U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC).

(9) U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC).

(10) U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM).

(11) U.S. Army Information Systems Command (USAISC).

(12) U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM).

c. The CG, TRADOC may provide observers from—

(1) The U.S. Army Combat Developments Experimentation Command (CDEC).

(2) The TRADOC Combined Arms Test Activity (TCATA).

(3) Other TRADOC organizations as necessary (i.e., ADATS managers).

d. The CG, AMC may provide observers from—

(1) The U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command (TECOM).

(2) The Army Command and Control Systems (ACCS) project.

e. Other TSARC members may invite observers from within their command or agency when tests fall within their functional area and their presence would be beneficial to the TSARC process.

f. The chairperson may request other Army Staff agencies and Army commands to attend when tests fall within their functional area of responsibility or involve their resources.

6. TSARC Working Group (WG)

a. The TSARC will be supported by a WG. The CG, OTEA will provide the chairperson. Each Army element represented on the TSARC will appoint a working representative (colonel, lieutenant colonel, or equivalent DA civilian) and alternate. In addition, the TSARC WG will include representatives from—

(1) Office, Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence (OACSI).

(2) Office, Chief of Engineers (COE).

(3) U.S. Army Health Services Command (HSC).

(4) U.S. Army Concepts Analysis Agency (USACAA).

(5) Appropriate TRADOC agencies (such as the Combined Arms Center, Logistics Center, and Soldier Support Center that will assist in identifying matters of interest to their respective agencies.

b. The WG chairperson may request other Army Staff agencies and Army commands to attend when tests fall within their functional area of responsibility or involve their resources.

7. Instrumentation subcommittee

a. To assist OTEA in managing UTI, including ADATS, a TSARC Instrumentation Subcommittee is established as follows:

(1) The CG, OTEA provides the chairperson.

(2) Other TSARC WG organizations, as required, provide membership.

b. The subcommittee will provide information for validation of UTI requirements and related actions consisting of—

(1) Allocating and setting priorities for existing UTI.

(2) Resolving scheduling conflicts.

(3) Forecasting and validating requirements.

(4) Planning and coordinating funding for UTI acquisition.

(5) Disposing of joint UTI.

(6) Addressing other UTI problems referred to it by the TSARC.

8. Direction, control, and administration

a. The TSARC will meet semiannually.

b. The TSARC chairperson may also call special meetings to address critical problems that cannot wait for a regularly scheduled meeting.

c. Input to the TSARC will be accomplished on a semiannual cycle as follows:

(1) September and March. New or revised OTPs that have undergone initial coordination will be submitted to OTEA for review.

(2) November and May. The CG, OTEA will convene the TSARC WG. The TSARC WG will—

(a) Review the OTPs to ensure their adequacy.

(b) Verify the need for the test and satisfaction of a 1-year resource notification requirement.

(c) Identify any issues requiring TSARC resolution.

(3) December and June. The TSARC will meet for resolution of concerns and to recommend those OTPs for inclusion in the FYTP. The FYTP will be published after HQDA(DCSOPS) approval.

d. Processing of OTPs out-of-cycle will be minimized. However, when it is necessary to obtain approval of an OTP between regularly scheduled TSARC meetings, the following procedures apply:

(1) A draft OTP will be submitted to the chairperson and other TSARC members simultaneously by a letter signed by the organization's designated general officer TSARC member. Copies will also be provided to those elements required to provide resources or support. The letter will indicate—

(a) Why the submission cannot be delayed.

(b) That the test can be funded within existing resources.

(c) The date when comments or concurrence must be provided to the TSARC chairperson.

(2) The TSARC chairperson may call a special TSARC meeting or process the submission by correspondence. If all members concur, the chairperson may approve the OTP for inclusion in the FYTP. Nonconcurrences will be forwarded to DCSOPS for resolution with the TSARC chairperson's recommended action.

(3) When the OTP is approved, the chairperson will provide a copy to all recipients for inclusion in the FYTP.

e. Proposed OTPs that do not provide at least 1 year between the TSARC approval and the first resource commitment (personnel/ equipment) from outside the tester's MACOM or agency will be processed as an exception to policy, using procedures similar to the procedures for processing out-of-cycle OTPs. The OTPs will be forwarded to the TSARC members under a cover letter signed by a designated general officer of a TSARC member headquarters, stating justification for the requested policy exception. Excepted OTPs agreed upon by the TSARC membership will be considered tasking documents upon approval by the TSARC chairperson. Nonconcurrences with excepted OTPs will be forwarded by the TSARC chairperson to HQDA(DCSOPS) for resolution or approval. When approved, the OTP will be included in the FYTP.

f. The CG, OTEA will provide the TSARC administrative support (clerical, space, and equipment), record and distribute minutes of the TSARC meetings, and after DCSOPS approval, ensure publication and distribution of the FYTP. The parent organization will provide funds for travel, per diem, and overtime for TSARC participation.

g. Correspondence to the TSARC will be addressed to the TSARC Chairman, U.S. Army Operational Test and Evaluation Agency, ATTN: CSTE–RMD 5600 Columbia Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041–5115.

9. User test flying hour requirements

a. Flying hour requirements for user tests identified in the approved FYTP will be the basis for OTEA suballocation of flying hours to support user tests. Suballocation by OTEA will be contingent upon HQDA(DCSOPS) allocation and identification of priorities.

b. Projections for the budget year flying hours will be reported by each MACOM to OTEA in mid-July. Projected requirements will be reviewed and analyzed by OTEA and forwarded to HQDA. The CG, OTEA will provide instructions for the periodic forecast, allocation, and reporting of actual expenditure of user test flying hours.

10. Test cost estimate (TCE)

A TCE will be attached to each user test OTP. It will include only the incremental funds required for those extra costs that occur solely because of the conduct of the user T & E, to include C2E costs. Costs that would occur whether or not the test is conducted are excluded (for example, full time permanent civilian and military pay). Specific costs to be considered are identified and the appropriate recording of the estimate of these costs will be indicated on the TCE. Further guidance for preparation of the TCE will be issued by OTEA.

a. All direct test and test support costs for a user test will be identified in that test's OTP. Funding conflicts should be resolved during the initial coordination of the documents and their revisions.

b. The responsibility for programming and budgeting the funds required to support a particular user test rests with the command or agency assigned to conduct the test.

c. Additional guidelines and procedures for funding user test and UTI are in AR 70–10.

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